

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Tuesday 27th January 2015
at Swadlincote Town Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Rhind (Chairman) and Councillors Dunn, Mrs Heath, Mulgrew, Murray, Stuart and Tilley

F McArdle (Chief Executive); S Winfield (Business Support Officer)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Chilton; P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer)

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

E Parker, D Sharpe (Woodville Parish Council); C Dobson (Hartshorne Parish Council)

Members of the Public

H Kreft (Burton Mail); D Redfern; C Pidgeon; M Shepherd; R Thomas; A Clarke; G Tubey; J Seaton; R Causer; M E Barsby; J Fox; K Dicken; M Lunn

Councillor Rhind welcomed everyone to the meeting and an introduction was made from the panel.

SA/24 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors Southerd and Bell; J Burley, N Parry and D Shuttleworth (Hartshorne Parish Council)

SA/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/26 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Local Plan has been through a thorough examination in public starting in November 2014, lasting for 6 days. Following that inspection the appointed inspector has asked the Council to undertake some further work around housing. When this work is complete it will be submitted to the inspector and he will decide the next step. Currently awaiting news on this.

The Community Partnership Grant Scheme has been re-launched with a total pot of £300,000. Only available for capital funding. Non-profit groups in South Derbyshire can apply and will require match funding. The minimum grant is £1,000 and the maximum grant is £25,000. Meeting scheduled for early March to decide on the grants. Chief Executive urged groups to come forward and make applications for the funding.

SA/27 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 23rd September 2014 were noted.

SA/28 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Forum Liaison Officer discussed the Report Back on issues raised at the last meeting.

Traffic calming in Moira Road – Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that works are now complete and signage would be put up shortly.

Flooding issues at Woodville – awaiting feedback from Cllr Southerd - to be referred to the next meeting

Fence replacement at South Street, Woodville – Chief Executive reported that Cllr Taylor had liaised with resident and developer and this issue had now been resolved.

SA/29 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Resident raised issues with a jitty running from Midland Road to John Street in Swadlincote. Litter is an absolute disgrace. A request was made to fence off a grassed area, which attracts people drinking and congregating very close to residences. CE discussed restrictions with open spaces and agreed to make enquiries.

ACTION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ASSESS GRASSED AREA AND POSSIBILITY OF FENCING OFF

Resident raised issues with noise levels from Wards at Woodville and asked if this was monitored. Chief Executive confirmed noise limits were controlled and agreed to instruct Environmental Health to look into this.

ACTION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO INSTRUCT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NOISE MONITORING

Resident raised that the new traffic calming introduced into Moira Road was not effective. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that signage was not yet in place. Cllr Dunn confirmed that he had been out to site and agreed that the lift onto certain speed humps did not seem to be steep enough. There was also an issue with a dropped kerb outside the Church. Simon from the County Council will be inspecting.

Resident raised an issue of potholes in Moira Road. Cllr Dunn confirmed he had reported this.

ACTION – FORUM LIAISON OFFICER TO ADDRESS

Resident requested signage for the retail park as lorries are still using Coppice Side as they are missing the entrance to the Hepworth site. Chief Executive confirmed that progress had been made with all of the stores to ensure deliveries are aware of postal addresses, which is enforced regularly. The totem pole had been a good idea but did not go ahead. Forum Liaison Officer discussed that adequate signage is displayed and

that the Pipeworks' entrance should be obvious. The County Council is currently involved in a de-cluttering exercise and additional signage is unjustifiable.

Forum Liaison Officer discussed the landscaping on Morrisons' roundabout, which hasn't been maintained well in the past, and this could have obstructed the entrance to the Pipeworks. Morrisons' contractors will not maintain this island anymore. The County Council Maintenance Manager has requested that the landscaping be removed and the island be returned to grass and maintained by the District Council. The Forum was asked if there were any objections to this. The Chief Executive expressed that he would like to get the island sponsored and sign traffic into the Pipeworks.

ACTION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO SOURCE SPONSOR FOR THE ISLAND

It was raised that those with disabilities and mobility issues have difficulty parking in the car park behind John Paul's shop. Chief Executive confirmed that 6 disabled spaces exist near the public toilets. All car parks are popular in the town as they are free. An additional 24 spaces were created following a redesign.

ACTION - CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO INSTRUCT TRAFFIC WARDENS TO MONITOR PARKING

South Street resident thanked the Chief Executive for assisting with the replacement fence at South Street, which is now in progress. Resident had been liaising with Tony Sylvester (SDDC) with further discussions on the fence and pathway.

ACTION - CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO LIAISE WITH TONY SYLVESTER

Resident raised an issue with parking at the top of Sandcliffe Road. A discussion took place as to the boundaries of the Newhall and Swadlincote Area Forums, which it was agreed needed clarification in the form of a detailed map. Cllr Dunn confirmed that the Mason's Arms junction was Area 5 and this continued down to the bottom of Sandcliffe Road.

ACTION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO CLARIFY BOUNDARIES WITH A DETAILED PLAN

Resident raised that a concrete lamp post was in the middle of the footpath on Belmont Street adjacent to the club.

ACTION – FORUM LIAISON OFFICER TO ADDRESS

Cllr Mulgrew raised that on Nadins Way from Brunel to Sainsburys the rubbish piled up at Rainbow Waste is a disgrace and grass doesn't get cut. Chief Executive confirmed that he had been out and the site has been cleaned up and de-cluttered.

Resident raised that flooding on Hearthcote Road near Chiltern Road had been very bad as surface water was not getting away.

ACTION – FORUM LIAISON OFFICER TO ADDRESS

Cllr Heath raised that the island at Springfield Road, at the bottom near the school, needs attention. Bricks are loose. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that Highways did look at it and from road safety perspective it was acceptable.

ACTION – FORUM LIAISON OFFICER TO REFER BACK TO HIGHWAYS

Resident raised that pot holes were an issue at the Midway fishponds roundabout. Cllr Mulgrew confirmed this had been reported

ACTION – FORUM LIAISON OFFICER CONFIRMED HE HAD VISITED THE SITE FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT, THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED

Resident reported a leak outside the railway – Forum Liaison Officer aware. Cllr Heath confirmed that Severn Trent had attended today.

SA/30 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None

SA/31 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Chief Executive gave an update on the budget. The Council's financial position has stabilised and they are not expecting any further reductions in Government funding. A payment has been received for the new homes bonus. The Council has moved to a business rates protocol, which does not go to government. It is proposed on 2nd March that members will consider freezing an increase in the rates, which would be the 5th year. Over the last 3-4 years SDDC has reduced the cost of services provided. There is capital available to apply for as discussed earlier. The voluntary services have had their grants increased by 2.5%. In summary there is a balanced budget going into the General Election. Using an example of a Band D property with rates of £150, only 11% goes to SDDC, the remainder goes elsewhere.

SA/32 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance – a date will be confirmed in due course for the next meeting.

G RHIND

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 pm